

Message Text

PAGE 01 SECTO 12098 122127Z
ACTION NEA-10

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USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTO 12098 FIRST TAKE OF SEVERAL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TEXT OF KING HUSSEIN PRESS CONFERENCE AMMAN,
DEC. 12, 1977

TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY JORDAN'S
KING HUSAYN ON 12 DECEMBER ON OCCASION OF VISIT BY U.S.
SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE

HUSAYN: GOOD EVENING. IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO
SEE SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES AND OLD FRIENDS AND TO WELCOME YOU
ALL HERE THIS EVENING. AND I AM MORE THAN HAPPY TO BE ABLE
TO ANSWER ANY OF THE QUESTIONS, SO...

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, DID SECRETARY VANCE CHANGE YOUR
THINKING AT ALL ABOUT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE?

ANSWER: NO, OUR POSITION REGARDING THE CAIRO CONFERENCE
AT THIS STAGE IS PRECISELY THE SAME. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, IN
THE LAST FEW DAYS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH OUR
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PAGE 02 SECTO 12098 122127Z

EGYPTIAN FRIENDS AND I VISITED EGYPT AND HAD THE PLEASURE
OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AS-SADAT, AND I AM CONVINCED THAT
HE IS DEVOTING ALL HIS TIME AND ENERGIES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE
SETTLEMENT ALONG THE LINES THAT WE ALL BELIEVE ARE THE ONES
THAT WILL GIVE US A JUST AND FINAL PEACE. AS FAR AS THE
CONFERENCE IN CAIRO IS CONCERNED, WE MADE OUR POSITION CLEAR.
HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT HOPEFULLY AT A LATEST STAGE,
POSSIBLY IN GENEVA, WE AND OTHERS WILL NOT DO OUR DUTY IN THE
QUEST FOR PEACE AND TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JUST AND

DURABLE PEACE.

QUESTION: PERHAPS, SHOULD THE CAIRO CONFERENCE GO ON, LET US SAY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECEDE, THEN WOULD JORDAN CONSIDER JOINING THE TALKS IF IT SEEMS THAT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE IS THE PLACE WHERE THERE WILL BE A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATION?

ANSWER: I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS WHETHER THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. I BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT AS-SADAT AS WELL AS MYSELF AND OTHERS ARE LOOKING TO MOVING TO GENEVA AT A LATER STAGE. I BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT AS-SADAT'S INTENTION IS TO SEE THAT THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN HIS SPEECH ON HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL-- THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 242--ARE HOPEFULLY ACCEPTED BY ALL AND THAT SOME OF THE GROUNDWORK IS DONE IN PREPARATION FOR GENEVA. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GENEVA IS RULED OUT. I BELIEVE THAT AT SOME STAGE TO COME, IT IS HOPED THAT THE MEETING WILL BE THERE WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE.

QUESTION: SIR, ((WORDS INDISTINCT)) A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU WOULD GO TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE ABSENCE OF SYRIA?

ANSWER: EVENTS HAVE TAKEN US BY GREAT SURPRISE; I AM SURE THEY HAVE TAKEN MOST OF YOU IN VERY MUCH THE SAME WAY. SOME HISTORIC DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURED IN THIS AREA IN THE RECENT PAST. IN THE FACE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED, WE FELT IT OUR DUTY TO
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PAGE 03 SECTO 12098 122127Z

OVERCOME OUR EMOTIONS AND TO MOVE IN THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE WAY POSSIBLE. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH OUR BROTHERS IN SYRIA-- I VISITED WITH PRESIDENT AL-ASAD, WHOM I BELIEVE IS PATRIOT AND A MAN OF COURAGE AND WISDOM. I HAVE VISITED WITH PRESIDENT AS-SADAT, WHO HAS TAKEN A VERY COURAGEOUS STEP TO INDICATE ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US THAT ARABS DESIRE A JUST AND HONORABLE PEACE AND WE DESIRE TO GIVE THE GENERATIONS TO COME THE BETTER OPPORTUNITY, THAT IS THEIR RIGHT, TO LIVE IN A STABLE AREA AND A PROGRESSIVE ONE. IT HAS NOT BEEN EASY, OBVIOUSLY, TO ACCEPT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, WITH THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE THEY CONTAINED, AFTER MANY YEARS OF A STRUGGLE THAT HAS TAKEN SO MUCH IN THE WAY OF A TOLL REGARDING ALL CONCERNED. WE HAVE FELT IT IMPERATIVE THAT WE DO ALL WE COULD TO BRING THE ARAB WORLD TOGETHER. AND IF IT WAS TO BEGIN WITH A DUTY WE FELT--WE FEEL IT NOW ALMOST A SACRED DUTY TO DO ALL WE COULD TOWARD THAT END. THIS IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT IN OUR OPINION IN THIS STAGE THAN A CAIRO CONFERENCE OR OUR ATTENDANCE THERE. WE ARE ONE OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED, BUT WE ARE INVOLVED VERY ACTIVELY WITH ALL OUR BRETHERN TO TRY TO GET THIS ARAB WORLD TO APPEAR AS TRULY IS--EAGER AND DESIROUS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE.

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PAGE 01 SECTO 12098 122133Z
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UNCLAS SECTO 12098 SECOND OF SEVERAL TAKES

QUESTION: SIR, WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE AMERICAN
ROLE AT THIS POINT?

ANSWER: I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS THE ABILITY
TO INFLUENCE MATTERS IN A VERY SUBSTANTIAL WAY. AFTER ALL
YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ALL SIDES TO THE CONFLICT. I BELIEVE IT IS
IMPERATIVE THAT THE ISRAELIS THEMSELVES MOVE TO RECIPROCATE
OUR DESIRE FOR PEACE. I HOPE THAT THEY WILL. I BELIEVE THAT
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL NEVER OCCUR AGAIN. THERE IS
SO MUCH AT STAKE. IT IS A FINAL GESTURE MADE WITH SINCERITY
AND THE GREATEST PROOF THAT WE COULD OFFER THE WORLD OF OUR
GOOD WILL. IF WE ARE TO FAIL, I CAN'T BEGIN TO THINK OF THE
DISASTERS THAT WOULD BEFALL THIS AREA AND MAYBE THE WORLD.
THIS IS A MOMENT NOT BE LOST, AND I HOPE THAT OUR FRIENDS IN
THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL THEY COULD TO INSURE THAT THIS
OPPORTUNITY IS NOT LOST.

QUESTION: WHAT MUST HAPPEN, YOUR MAJESTY, FOR YOU TO TAKE
JORDAN, ONE, OR CAIRO, OR TWO, TO GENEVA LATER? WHAT MUST HAPPEN
BEFORE YOU MAKE THE DECISION TO GO?

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PAGE 02 SECTO 12098 122133Z

ANSWER: AS I SAID, WE ARE VERY DEEPLY INVOLVED AT THIS
STAGE IN TRYING TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, TRYING TO SEE OUR
WAY CLEARLY IN TERMS OF THE TIME TO COME. MANY EVENTS HAVE
HAPPENED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD WHERE WE WERE NOT INVOLVED
IN PLANNING THEM, YET ALL OF US HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THEIR RESULTS.

GREAT HAPPENINGS HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY; THEY HAVE LEFT
AN IMPACT ON ALL AND IN DIFFERING WAYS. I BELIEVE THAT THE MOST
IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THAT WE CAN MAKE IS TO TRY TO BRING PEOPLE
TOGETHER AT THIS STAGE, TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON UNDERSTANDING

AND TO APPEAR IN THE WAY THAT WE ARE--A PEOPLE DESIROUS FOR A JUST
AND HONORABLE AND LASTING PEACE. THIS IS WHAT IS PREOCCUPYING
ME AND MY COUNTRY AT THIS STAGE MORE THAN ANY OTHER MATTER,
AND OBVIOUSLY WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US IS TO KNOW THAT WE ARE
MOVING TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. AND IN BRIEF, I
BELIEVE THAT THE SOLUTION IS VERY SIMPLE IN RETURN FOR TOTAL
PEACE. ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN
JUNE OF 1967, THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE WHO SUFFERED
FOR SO LONG MUST BE RECOGNIZED AND THE RIGHT OF SELF-
DETERMINATION. AND WE WILL BE ON OUR WAY, BUT UNTIL NOW
WE ARE WAITING AN HOPING THAT ISRAEL WILL MAKE A FAIR CONTRIBUTION.
UNTIL NOW WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY CLEAR AND OBVIOUS SIGNS TO THAT
EFFECT. I THINK THAT THIS IS PROBABLY WHY MANY ARE SKEPTICAL
IN THE AREA AND MANY ARE DOUBTING THAT A BREAKTHROUGH WILL BE
MADE. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL THAT COULD BE DONE HAS BEEN DONE ON
OUR SIDE IN THE ARAB WORLD AT THIS STAGE, AND FOR THAT MATTER
I DON'T THINK THAT EVEN PRESIDENT AS-SADAT HAS IN HIS MIND
PRESSURING US TO ATTEND MEETINGS AT CAIRO. WHAT HS IS
INTERESTED IN I BELIEVE IS HAVING THE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO THE
GESTURE HE MADE ON BEHALF OF THIS ENTIRE AREA WHICH WOULD
ENABLE HIM TO FACE THE ARAB WORLD AS HE HAS SAID AND TO TELL
THE ARAB LEADERS THIS IS WHAT COULD BE DONE. SO WE ARE ALL
WAITING AND IN THE MEANTIME, WE HERE IN JORDAN ARE DOING ALL
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PAGE 03 SECTO 12098 122133Z

WE CAN TO BRING THE ARAB WORLD TOGETHER.

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PAGE 01 SECTO 12098 122150Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 PA-02 PRS-01 ISO-00 INR-07 INRE-00 SS-15

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USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTO 12098 THIRD OF SEVERAL TAKES

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, DO YOU THINK THAT, AS PRESIDENT AS-SADAT HAS BEEN (?QUOTED), THE PLO CANCELLED OR FORFEITED ITS RIGHTS AS ESTABLISHED IN RABAT BY ITS ACTIONS IN TRIPOLI TO BE THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?

ANSWER: PLO STANDS FOR PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. IF THE TERRITORIES ARE TO BE LIBERATED, WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ARE THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE--TO SELF-DETERMINATION UNDER CONDITIONS OF TOTAL FREEDOM. I THINK IT DOESN'T BECOME A PROBLEM OF INDIVIDUALS. IT BECOMES AS IT SHOULD HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, THE PROBLEM OF A PEOPLE. THEY ARE SUFFERING, THE FACT THEY HAVE NOT REGAINED THEIR RIGHTS CAUSED THE CREATION OF THE PLO. I BELIEVE THAT GIVEN THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITIES UNDER CONDITIONS OF TOTAL FREEDOM, THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL RECOGNITION OF THEIR NATIONAL RIGHTS, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PALESTINIANS WOULD OPT FOR PEACE--A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM SECRETARY VANCE THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE TAKING UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SECTO 12098 122150Z

A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION?

ANSWER: SECRETARY VANCE HAS GIVEN ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS TRAVELLING IN THIS AREA TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF ITS LEADERS, THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BE EXAMINING WHAT THEY FIND. THERE HAD BEEN GREAT CHANGES IN THE AREA IN THE MOODS OF MANY INVOLVED, AND THIS IS MY FEELING AS WELL, AND ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS AS IF THE CHALLENGES STILL THERE AND IT IS VERY DIFFICULT ONE, POSSIBLY I FEEL A LITTLE MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN I FELT FOR A LONG TIME.

QUESTION: CAN YOU CONCEIVE, SIR, OF ATTENDING THE CAIRO CONFERENCE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, OR DO YOU RULE OUT ATTENDANCE ALTOGETHER? FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE ISRAELIS DID MAKE A RESPONSE, WOULD YOU THEN CONSIDER IT A NEW SITUATION?

ANSWER: I BELIEVE THAT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE IS A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AS IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AND I HOPE THAT WHATEVER COMES OF IT WILL BE IN PREPARATION FOR THE REAL EFFORT THAT HAS TO BE MADE POSSIBLY AT GENEVA AT A LATER STAGE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, DO YOU FEEL THAT PRESIDENT AS-SADAT HAS YOUR AUTHORIZATION NOW TO NEGOTIATE PRINCIPLES OF AN OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT FOR THE WHOLE AREA?

ANSWER: HE HAS UNDERTAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO DO SO IN TERMS OF THE PRINCIPLES WHICH I SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT ALMOST THREE WEEKS BEFORE HIS RECENT MOVES AND WHICH HE REPEATED IN HIS STATEMENTS IN ISRAEL ITSELF--THE PRINCIPLES THAT MUST BE RECOGNIZED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE. I HAVE NO DIFFERENCE WITH HIM OVER ANY OF THOSE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, HOW LONG CAN YOU WAIT IN YOUR MISSION OF BRINGING THE VARIOUS ARAB GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER IN A UNITED FRONT BEFORE YOU DECIDE THAT YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY, AS THE LEADER OF JORDAN, TO UNDERTAKE EITHER ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE

OR NEGOTIATIONS ON YOUR OWN?

ANSWER: BELIEVE ME, I AM VERY AWARE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES

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PAGE 03 SECTO 12098 122150Z

AS A LEADER OF JORDAN AND IT IS A POINT OF FACT THIS AWARENESS
HAS CAUSED ME TO MOVE WITH ALL SINCERITY AND DETERMINATION IN
THE INTEREST OF ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT TO THE PROBLEM
THAT ALL OF US HAVE SUFFERED FROM FOR SO LONG.

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PAGE 01 SECTO 12098 122225Z

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UNCLAS SECTO 12098 FOURTH OF FIVE TAKES

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, HOW DO YOU VIEW THE POSSIBILITY OF
YOUR COUNTRY SHARING A COMMON BORDER WITH THE PLO STATE?

ANSWER: IN THIS WORLD, I SUPPOSE, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, HOW CLOSE WAS THIS AREA TO WAR JUST
BEFORE PRESIDENT AS-SADAT'S MISSION TO JERUSALEM?

ANSWER: I AM NOT QUITE SURE HOW CLOSE IT WAS TO WAR.
BUT WITHOUT DEFINITE PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE, THE FACT WAS ALWAYS
THERE AND THE DANGER WAS ALWAYS THERE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, HOW BADLY SPLIT ARE SYRIA AND EGYPT?
YOU SPOKE TO BOTH LEADERS. IS THIS SPLIT REPARABLE?

ANSWER: I HOPE AND PRAY THAT IT WOULD BE REPAIRABLE.
I BELIEVE THAT LOGIC, REASON, NATIONAL INTEREST, INTEREST IN
THE FUTURE OF THIS ENTIRE AREA AND THE ARAB WORLD WOULD ALL BE
ON THE SIDE OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND AND WORK TOGETHER FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, IF IT IS NOT REPARABLE, WHAT CAN
WE EXPECT THEN?

ANSWER: WELL, IT HAS BEEN STATED IN SYRIA THAT THEIR POSITION

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SECTO 12098 122225Z

IS NOT NEGOTIABLE AND THAT THEY DO NOT WELCOME ANY ATTEMPT AT BRINGING THEM AND OUR BROTHERS IN EGYPT CLOSER TOGETHER. BUT I HAVEN'T LOST HOPE AND WILL NEVER LOSE HOPE IN THAT REGARD. AND I BELIEVE THAT THE ANSWER REALLY LIES WITH ISRAEL. IS SHE PREPARED TO MAKE HERE CTRIBUTION FOR PEACE? IF SO, I THINK MANY POSITIONS WILL DEFINITELY ALTER.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THAT CONTRIBUTION, YOUR MAJESTY?

ANSWER: ARE THEY WILLING TO IMPLEMENT 242 AND 338? ARE THEY WILLING TO WITHDRAW FOR TOTAL PEACE?

QUESTION: SIR, YOU SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN GREAT CHANGES IN THE AREA, CHANGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT MADE YOU MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN YOU HAVE BEEN FOR A LONG TIME. HOW DO YOU DEFINE THOSE CHANGES?

ANSWER: WELL, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH MAY BE ABOUT A MONTH AGO I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED HAS HAPPENED. I HAD A TOUGH TIME TO COMPREHEND WHAT WAS HAPPENING. I KNEW AND FELT SURE ABOUT DESIRE FOR PEACE. BUT SOME VERY DRAMATIC MOVES HAVE BEEN MADE, VERY COURAGEOUS AND VERY BOLD ONES. AND THAT GENERATED MOTION AND THOUGH. AND IT NOW LIES WITH ISRAEL REALLY TO RESPOND IN KIND IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE PEACE.

QUESTION: YOU MAJESTY, ARE YOU DISCUSSING AN ISRAELI RESPONSE WITH ISRAEL NOW IN ANY KIND OF SECREET TALKS?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT YOU HAVEN'T MAKE CLEAR IS WHY CAN YOU NOT WORK FOR ARAB UNITY AND ATTEND THE CAIRO MEETING?

ANSWER: WE ARE ONE OF MANY INVOLVED. WE WANT TO KNOW AN ANSWER REGARDING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. I AM NOT REFERRING NECESSARILY TO PLO. I AM REFERRING TO OUR BRETHEREN AND PEOPLE WHO ARE UNDER OCCUPATION SINCE 10) YEARS, THEIR RIGHTS, RIGHTS OF OTHERS, AND RIGHTS GUARANTEED UNDER MANY UN RESOLUTIONS. I WANT TO KNOW IF THE PRINCIPLE OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN JUNE OF 1967 IS RECOGNIZED, THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SECTO 12098 122225Z

ARAB SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ARAB PART OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM. OBVIOUSLY, IN A CONTEXT OF PEACE, JERUSALEM BECOMES THE CITY OF PEACE AND THE SYMBOL OF PEACE. SINCE RABAT, WE BECAME ANOTHER CONFRONTATION STATE. SUPPOSING WE WERE TO ATTEND A LIMITED SMALL MEETING, WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO? WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD ARRIVES AT A COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND A COMMON POSITION, IF WE ARE TO ARRIVE AT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THIS, TO ME, APPEARS MORE IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE THAN ANYTHING ELSE THAT HAS HAPPENED. THAT IS WHERE MY GREATEST EFFORT IS BEING CENTERED.

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PAGE 01 SECTO 12098 122241Z

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UNCLAS SECTO 12098 FINAL TAKE OF 5

QUESTION: ((WORDS INDISTINCT)) THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER GAVE US AN IMPRESSION YESTERDAY THAT WHAT HE WAS SEEKING WAS A KIND OF A MODEL STATE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WHICH COULD BE LATER APPLIED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, OTHER CONFRONTATION STATES. IF THIS PROCESS IS INDEED HAPPENING, WOULD IT NOT BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR JORDAN TO TAKE PART IN THE PROCESS IN FORMING THAT MODEL WHICH WOULD LATER BE USED AT LEAST FOR ISRAEL?

ANSWER: WELL, FIRST OF ALL I THINK THAT JORDAN HAS SUFFERED FOR VERY LONG ADVOCATING PEACE AND A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU PROBABLY HEARD FROM PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TIME AND AGAIN EVEN AFTER HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL THAT THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT HE IS AFTER; NOT SEPARATE DEALS, NOT SEPARATE SOLUTIONS. BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE MEANINGLESS UNLESS THERE IS FINAL PEACE AND A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, WOULD YOU REGARD AN OFFER OR DECLARATION BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK WITH JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIAN ARABS AS AN OPEN-ENDED OFFER TO NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AS A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SECTO 12098 122241Z

ANSWER: WE HAVE TO CROSS BRIDGES WHEN WE REACH THEM.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, DO YOU STILL CONSIDER THE RULINGS OF THE RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE REGARDING THE PLO TO BE VALID?

ANSWER: I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS ARE WHAT WE ARE AFTER AND WHAT ARE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED NOT ONLY NOW, BUT THIS HAS BEEN OUR POSITION EVER SINCE WE GOT

INVOLVED IN THIS PROBLEM AND DILEMMA AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY IN THE ARAB REVOLT.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, IS YOUR POSITION CLOSER TO THAT OF EGYPT OR THAT OF SYRIA AT THIS MOMENT?

ANSWER: I WOULD RATHER LEAVE MY THOUGHTS IN THAT REGARD TO MYSELF.

QUESTION: LET ME ASK YOU THIS THEN, DO YOU THINK THAT SYRIA IS WILLING TO GO TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE MAKES ENOUGH PROGRESS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

ANSWER: I AM SURE YOU WILL BE IN SYRIA SOON, AND YOU PROBABLY CAN HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT FROM OUR SYRIAN BROTHERS. BUT IN THE MEANTIME WE ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE ACCESS TO ALL CONCERNED IN THE AREA AND WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO BRING HARMONY AND A CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME.

QUESTION: WAS THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE A CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURE?

ANSWER: IT WAS A REACTION, AND I THINK ONE SHOULD MEASURE THIS REACTION AGAINST 30 YEARS OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WE APOLOGIZED OURSELVES AND DID NOT ATTEND THE TRIPOLI MEETING, TO WHICH WE WERE INVITED.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, AFTER TRIPOLI DO YOU THINK IT IS STILL POSSIBLE FOR A MODERATE WING OR BRANCH OF THE PLO TO EMERGE THAT WOULD ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338?

ANSWER: I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE PLO, BUT AS I SAID EARLIER IT
UNCLASSIFIED
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PAGE 03 SECTO 12098 122241Z

SEEMD WE ARE LIVING IN A WORLD IN WHICH NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, HAS SAUDI ARABIA MADE ANY EFFORT TO SUGGEST THAT YOU ATTEND THE CAIRO CONFERENCE?.

ANSWER: NO. BUT WE HAVE BEEN IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND VERY MANY ARAB STATES OVER THE RECENT PAST, AND I INTEND TO INTENSIFY THESE CONTACTS, POSSIBLY BY GOING PERSONALLY TO SAUDI ARABIA AND VISITING OTHER STATES IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

QUESTION: YOUR MAJESTY, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN SAID LAST NIGHT THAT EVERYTHING IS NEGOTIABLE. FROM JORDAN'S VIEWPOINT, WHAT IS NEGOTIABLE? WHAT IS JORDAN WILLING TO NEGOTIATE?

ANSWER: JORDAN IS WILLING TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE. JORDAN IS WILLING TO LIVE IN PEACE IN THIS AREA, IF A SOLUTION IS FOUND ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, AND IF THE POINTS RAISED IN PRESIDENT AS-SADAT'S SPEECH IN ISRAEL ARE ACCEPTED AND THE PRINCIPLES THEN I BELIEVE WE ARE ON OUR PATH TO PEACE.

QUESTION: EXCUSE ME SIR, DOES THAT MEAN THAT JORDAN IS WILLING TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY, IF ITS OBJECTIVES ARE MET?

ANSWER: IF THE OBJECTIVES ARE MET, I THINK WE ARE TALKING OF TOTAL PEACE, YES.

QUESTION: WITH A PEACE TREATY?

ANSWER: TREATY OR OTHERWISE, I REALLY DONT KNOW.

QUESTION: THANK YOU YOUR MAJESTY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

ANSWER: THANK YOU VERY VERY MUCH.

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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9f75dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 120188
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF KING HUSSEIN PRESS CONFERENCE AMMAN, DEC. 12, 1977
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (HUSSEIN I)
To: STATE IMMEIDATE USINFO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9f75dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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